



Jim Manning
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Q. What is your biggest accomplishment?

A. Raising a child as a single parent. I adopted my son Sam 15 years ago. When he came to me, he had some development disabilities, but eventually learned to read and to do a lot of other things. He is now going to school, working at a part time job, and looking into college and the Navy.

Q. What food can't you live without?

A. Donuts. They're what make life worth living!

Q. Something no one knew about you until now?

A. I love technology, and music (i.e., R&B, Salsa and Jazz). Back in high school, I built a transmitter and got a record company to send me promo copies. I started my own radio station and played DJ.

Q. What is the biggest risk you've ever taken?

A. I spent my junior year in college at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. I spoke no Spanish and knew no one there. I returned home speaking fluent Spanish, but even more important, with confidence that I could tackle anything that came my way.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. I make neon sculptures and signs. Once I woke at 4 AM with an idea to make a vase filled with neon tropical flowers. I ran over to the shop and had it done by 8 AM. My favorite piece I called "Electric Spring." I spliced together many shapes and colors of glass, then lit it up. I feel a piece is successful if it makes people smile.

Q. Who's your greatest influence?

A. My mom. She never complained. If something bothered her, she would either do something about it – or move on.